



## Farm Animal Welfare Council



Annual Review 2001/2002



## Terms of Reference

*The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) is an independent advisory body established by Government in 1979. Its terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at place of slaughter; and to advise Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.*

### **The Council can:**

- *investigate any topic falling within this remit*
- *communicate freely with outside bodies, the European Commission and the public*
- *publish its advice independently*

Website: [www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk)

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## Message from the Chairwoman



*If 2001 will go down in history as the year of Foot and Mouth Disease, so the last twelve months will be remembered for lessons learned and for embarking on the regeneration of our systems of food production. Sustainability is the keyword of today - and no less appropriate in relation to animal welfare than to environmental and safety issues.*

*The production of our livestock in a sustainable manner which takes full consideration of their needs (as embodied in the Five Freedoms) is at the very heart of most people's expectations of our farmers, our livestock transporters, and those responsible for the humane slaughter of the food which arrives on our plates.*

*Our first report on the Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes, published in August 2001, made this point very clearly and we have been impressed by the moves made by some Scheme organisers to address the recommendations we made. We propose to continue exploring this rapidly developing field which, we firmly believe, can be the vehicle to greater consumer awareness of welfare standards in food production.*

*Another landmark for food production was the January 2002 publication of the report of the Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food (the Curry Commission) entitled "Farming & Food; a sustainable future".*

*We were disturbed at the time the Curry Commission was established at the apparent absence of in-depth welfare expertise in its membership. FAWC's offer to fill that gap was readily accepted and we prepared a carefully argued paper which concluded with four recommendations: that the Welfare Codes should be adequately enforced as minimum acceptable standards for UK production; that there should be reform of the CAP to link support payments to Code compliance; that a nationally co-ordinated and effective welfare surveillance system should be put in place; and that there should be investment in raising the skills base of those responsible for livestock management. We consider this submission so important that we have reproduced it in its entirety on **pages 5 to 9**.*

*The Curry Commission incorporated the spirit of our recommendations into its Report but omitted to relate them directly to welfare. We are very concerned that*

*this lack of prominent mention of welfare issues may give the impression that welfare is unimportant in the eyes of the public when compared with environmental and food safety issues. This is clearly not the case. Yet the DEFRA response to the Curry Report, "Sustainable Food and Farming; Working Together" falls into the same trap and places only marginal emphasis on welfare.*

*Nevertheless, we consider the Curry Report offers a positive opportunity to achieve progress in welfare standards in parallel with enhancing environmental management and food safety. One of its major messages, "reconnecting the supply chain" is fundamental to ensuring that the focus of our producers is targeted at the needs and desires of consumers.*

*Indeed, the concept of "reconnecting the supply chain" sits entirely in harmony with the strategy FAWC announced two years ago to enable us all, as consumers, to express our concerns about the welfare provenance of the food we eat through informed purchasing choices. We have called this concept "Welfare Standards of the Food we Eat" and, on **pages 3 & 4** of this Annual Review, we have taken the opportunity to clarify our views on this important matter. I strongly recommend this paper to you. It provides perspective, validity and policy relevance in what is now clearly a demand driven food system in this country.*

*In previous years, our Annual Review has been restricted to a summary of our work during the year in question together with a vision of what lies ahead. This Annual Review breaks that mould by additionally containing these two important papers outlining issues and recommendations which I believe are of critical importance. I hope both will encourage robust debate; they mark a turning point in the practical realisation of animal welfare standards driven by the choices of an informed public.*

*Finally, another significant FAWC publication during the year has been our January 2002 report "FMD 2001 and Animal Welfare; Lessons for the Future". This has been widely acclaimed as a succinct and authoritative statement of the many welfare issues involved. We look forward to a response from Government following this summer's publication of the other reports of the various Committees of Inquiry which were announced in August 2001.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy MacArthur Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style.

*Judy MacArthur Clark  
Chairwoman  
May 2002*

## What does the Council do?

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) is an independent advisory body established by Government in 1979. Its terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of slaughter; and to advise Government of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.

The Council can also investigate any topic falling within this remit, communicate freely with outside bodies, the European Commission and the public and publish its advice independently.



Our members (see Appendix A) are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and occupations and serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of any organisation or interest group.

A key element is our ability to act independently; we may pursue any topic we regard as important to the welfare of farm animals.

When embarking on a new investigation, we consult a wide range of interest groups. We carefully consider written advice and take verbal evidence from those with specific expertise. Wherever possible we use relevant scientific evidence to aid us. This is carefully balanced with information gained from industry experience, visits by members of FAWC to farms and other agricultural businesses and guidance from experts. Where there is insufficient scientific knowledge, we may recommend funding of research and development to fill the gaps.

In considering the welfare conditions under which farm animals are kept, we are guided by ideals that have become known as the Five Freedoms:

### **1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST**

– by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

### **2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT**

– by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

### **3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE**

– by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

### **4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**

– by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

### **5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS**

– by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

## Council Statements

### The Food We Eat; connecting animal welfare, food quality and consumer satisfaction

A key message from the report of the Policy Commission on the Future of Farming & Food (the 'Curry report') published in January was 'reconnection'. This relates to the difficulties, inherent in the modern complex food supply chain, in linking farmers with the consumers they ultimately serve.

Most consumers have little knowledge of what goes on in farming, yet their developing preferences for the qualitative characteristics of the food they purchase needs to be articulated back down the supply chain to the farms where the food raw materials are produced.

These quality characteristics cover origin, nutritive value, residues and safety, environmental credentials and – crucially in the case of livestock products – the welfare standards associated with the food producing animals.

FAWC had recognised this ‘connection’ issue some time ago, and at our Open Meeting in June 2000 we highlighted the principle which now guides all our thinking – namely, that the welfare standards under which farm animals are kept are carried through to become a quality aspect of the resulting food products. The recognition of this principle is of fundamental importance, both to policy and to the way FAWC frames its advice to Ministers.

It means, for example, that animal welfare considerations are an integral part of food consumption, not simply a farm-level concern about how animals should be treated. Further, it implies that the animal welfare standards with which UK society feels comfortable do not relate solely to the way we keep livestock in this country. If they have any meaning, those standards must logically apply to *all* livestock-derived food products we consume, from wherever they are sourced – from UK farms, other EU member states or the wider international market place.

It means, too, that the increasing number of consumers who wish to satisfy their preference for food products which have an appropriately high welfare provenance need a means of expressing that preference back down the food chain to domestic and overseas livestock farmers. They also require a dependable framework of information to know that the products they buy actually do meet their preferences. In other words, the consumer needs ‘connecting’ to the farmer.

FAWC has pursued this issue with a clear focus. It has emphasised the need for specific and unambiguous product labelling relating to animal welfare, and is undertaking a major enquiry into the role and ability of Farm Assurance Schemes to provide consumers with information and confidence in the welfare standards of the food they eat. These are crucial elements in the ability of people to connect with the way their food is produced, and to feel comfortable with the livestock husbandry methods their purchases are supporting.

There are a number of obvious implications of treating animal welfare standards as not simply technical on-farm issues, but as being embodied in the resultant food products.

First, while farmers are at the beginning of the food chain it is the processors, retailers and food service (catering) sectors that provide the connection through to the consumer. Hence it is essential for companies in these areas of the system to convey consumer preference signals back to their farmer suppliers, and to carry forward information about the welfare standards of the products they are supplying.

Indeed, given their power in the market place, they are potentially far more influential in determining the welfare standards of the food we eat than are farmers. FAWC recognises this, and in its enquiry into Farm Assurance Schemes it is looking for far greater leadership from these post-farm sectors. The food service sector in particular, which has a substantial and increasing share of final food expenditures, could more explicitly consider (and declare) the welfare provenance of the products it offers.

A second implication is, as FAWC emphasised when first enunciating this concept, that the animal welfare standards that UK society wishes to espouse must apply to all food products that are sold here. It is inconsistent and illogical to recommend welfare standards that British livestock farmers must meet and not insist that imported products equally should meet them. Otherwise, FAWC’s recommendations to Ministers would simply create inequality between domestic and overseas producers to no purpose – and that is not its intention nor wish.

More positively, FAWC’s standpoint and consequent advice to Ministers provides a clear basis for leadership in negotiations on welfare standards within the EU, and a defensible basis for arguing, for example in the WTO, the validity of animal welfare criteria being applied in international trade. Until that position is accepted internationally, we maintain that effective voluntary welfare labelling, clear and transparent, will enable consumers to exercise informed choice in their purchasing decisions.

The principle that animal welfare is a characteristic of the food we eat, not just the food we produce, is the major cornerstone in all the work that FAWC now undertakes. It provides perspective, validity and policy relevance in what is now clearly a demand driven food system in this country, requiring that demand preferences – for farm animal welfare and other aspects of production – are satisfied in the way food is produced. FAWC’s guidance and recommendations are developed in the light of this need.

## Council's advice

### **Interim Advice on the animal welfare implications of Farm Assurance Schemes**

In August 2001, FAWC produced its Interim Report on the Animal Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes in response to a request by Elliot Morley, Parliamentary Under Secretary at DEFRA with responsibility for animal welfare. This report considered the general framework of farm assurance schemes to assess their capacity in principle to deliver assurance on the welfare standards under which farm animals are kept. Recommendations in the report were primarily aimed at stimulating the review and development of the animal welfare component of farm assurance standards and improving communication with the consumer.

Our initial study affirmed the view that farm assurance schemes have the potential to raise welfare standards and to heighten public awareness of such standards. One of our recommendations was aimed at obtaining evidence from welfare visits undertaken by the State Veterinary Service to compare the welfare compliance on farm assured farms compared with that on non-assured farms. This information will enable an assessment of the differences between these two categories of farm.

Other recommendations were directed at ensuring the development of scheme standards based on welfare science and practical experience and increasing the openness and transparency of all assurance scheme standards. We noted the lack of objective assessment of the quality of stockmanship in most schemes and recommended that demonstrable stockmanship competence should be an integral part of them.

Our interim report was well received. We are very grateful to all those who have commented on this report; the feedback we have received has largely supported our recommendations and provided valuable information which will inform our next report on this subject. We are also pleased to note that action is already being taken in response to several recommendations.

## Responses to consultations

### **FAWC's submission to the Policy Commission on the Future of Food and Farming: Farm Animal Welfare and the Future of Farming & Food**

We set up an ad hoc group to prepare our response to the consultation by the Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food. The paper comprising the submission that FAWC delivered to the Policy Commission on Food and Farming (the Curry Commission) in November 2001 is reproduced below. This input was prepared at the invitation of the Commission, recognising the relative absence of specific welfare expertise amongst its membership. FAWC, as the welfare advisory body appointed by Government, was the natural partner to fill that gap.

FAWC believes that the content of this submission, and its four recommendations, are crucial to the effective realisation of consumer-lead animal welfare standards in the future. We wholeheartedly support the need for "reconnection of the supply chain" as advocated by the Commission. FAWC will be pressing for implementation of these recommendations in parallel with the more general recommendations of the Commission.

#### **Summary of FAWC's Recommendations**

##### ***Recommendation 1***

The provisions of the Welfare Codes should be enforced as the minimum acceptable animal welfare standards in all livestock production systems. Equivalent provisions should apply equally to all the food we eat, including imported livestock products, and should take the entire process (from birth to slaughter) into consideration. An effective labelling system should be developed to identify food produced in compliance with these Welfare Codes (and the absence of such labelling on some imported goods may be taken to indicate non-compliance with these codes or their equivalent), and to additionally recognise food produced to enhanced welfare standards, in an honest, transparent and reliable way. (paras 4-9)

##### ***Recommendation 2***

There should be a national system of welfare surveillance throughout the food chain and better enforcement of the existing legislation. A system of registration of livestock holdings is an essential administrative requirement to underpin such

enforcement action and should be introduced. A single welfare inspectorate acting throughout the food chain should undertake this surveillance and enforcement role. A system whereby a formal licence has to be held in order to undertake livestock production has attractive elements from the standpoint of animal welfare. Equally, compulsory membership of a farm assurance scheme providing independent monitoring at each stage of production could be a viable alternative. We recognise that important practical issues would need to be overcome in each case. (paras 10-11)

**Recommendation 3**

There should be investment into raising the farm animal welfare skills base of those responsible for livestock management in all production systems through better training, appropriate recognition of demonstrable stockmanship skills, and enhanced communication and delivery of advisory services. (paras 12-15)

**Recommendation 4**

Government should press for reform of CAP to enable any support payments to livestock producers to be linked to their implementation of the Welfare Codes. Furthermore, pressure should continue to be applied on WTO to include welfare standards in those negotiations. (paras 16-17)

**Introduction**

1. To guide the Commission’s consideration of animal welfare in the future livestock industry, FAWC was asked to give some thought to the medium and long term solutions which could be envisaged. The following paper is the result of this process. In this submission, FAWC makes a number of comments relevant to the English remit of the Policy Commission, but which it considers would apply equally to the other parts of Great Britain.

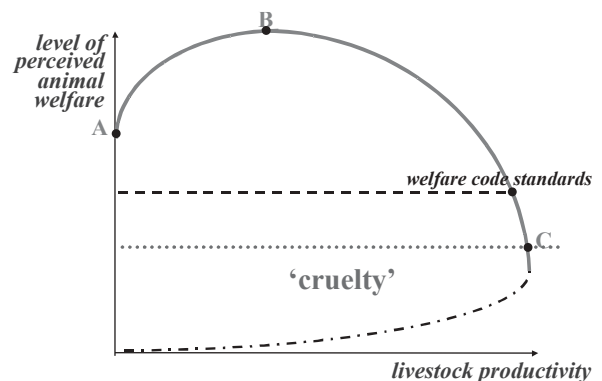
2. The standard of farm animal welfare is an integral element in the acceptability of all livestock production systems and needs to be considered in a holistic way from the point of production to point of slaughter. Farming is a diverse industry, both regionally and sectorally. In addition to the farm level production unit, livestock are subject to additional processes that have significant welfare impact throughout the production chain (transport, marketing, slaughter, etc.). When considering welfare characteristics of livestock products, whether from the UK or overseas, it is important to look at the entire lifetime of processes to which the animals are exposed.

3. Regardless of how the structure of agriculture may change as a result of the adjustments now taking place, farm animal welfare can be safe-guarded as long as minimum acceptable welfare standards are set, adequately monitored and rigorously enforced. Experience shows that livestock enterprises that are financially viable will generally adhere more reliably to welfare standards. Any move toward rationalisation may be expected to affect some livestock systems more than others. Low value animals at the end of the farming process, for example, e.g. cull sows and ewes and spent hens, become increasingly vulnerable to welfare abuse as agricultural systems are “optimised” in terms of commercial parameters.

**Definition of minimum acceptable standards and recognition of welfare**

4. Figure 1 is a conceptual model showing the relationship between the level of animal welfare (as perceived by humans) and livestock productivity (‘intensity’). Initially welfare may be improved by provision of a domesticated environment with protection from predators and with an accompanying increase in productivity (as indicated by the move from point A to point B). However, beyond a certain point (indicated by point B), the drive to achieve progressively further productivity gains comes at increasing cost in terms of the animal’s welfare (e.g. increased intensification which may decrease the animal ability to express normal behaviours). In principle the animal’s productive potential could be pushed so hard as to be unsustainable, resulting in the animal’s death and the collapse of its production. The minimum level of welfare acceptable to a society is defined by law (e.g. the 1911 Protection of Animals Act) below which it is regarded as ‘cruelty’ (indicated by point C). The level implied by the Welfare Codes is above this legal minimum and represents a norm considered appropriate by the public at large. Above this is a range of enhanced welfare standards that are attractive to different groups of consumers or individuals with particular ethical standpoints concerning the treatment of animals.

**Figure 1**



5. Absolute compliance with legislation and regulations relating to farm animal welfare (e.g. 1911 Act; Agriculture [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act 1968, Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations) is a fundamental public requirement and must be enforced. However, since the Welfare Codes are designed to reflect the standards considered acceptable to a welfare conscious and civilised society, there is a public expectation that the provisions within the Codes are, in practice, the minimum standards to which the livestock industry should adhere. Making the Codes more enforceable would ensure this is achieved in the public interest.

6. In addition to this, an increasing sector of the public wishes to have the choice to consume products deriving from systems with enhanced animal welfare standards. Claims made about such products must be transparent, honest, auditable and enforced. Effective labelling, with full traceability linked to quality assurance schemes, will be an essential for this sector.

7. Those addressing the welfare of farm animals must consider the process as a whole, from the place(s) of birth and rearing, through transport, marketing and slaughter. The sum of welfare conditions to which each animal is exposed throughout its life is an explicit and distinctive element of that animal and is thus a quality characteristic of its provenance as food.

8. Recent trends in rationalisation of slaughter capacity have raised new welfare problems associated with the scale of operation. New technologies are required for large, high throughput slaughterhouses to avoid animals being mistreated as a consequence of scale. Long distance transport (within reasonable limits) is not stressful in itself provided good quality vehicles and well trained drivers are used and loading/unloading activities are professionally performed. However, transport may often be part of a marketing operation. The stress involved in moving animals for marketing is potentially high, and therefore must be kept to a minimum. In traditional markets and collection centres, the problems relate to handling and mixing. These problems are not necessarily eliminated by 'direct selling' or virtual (e.g. video) markets.

9. Risk assessments should regularly be undertaken of the welfare implications of emerging and existing production and processing systems. New technologies and innovations must be developed to address the needs of changing systems and to safeguard the welfare of animals at all stages throughout their lives. Existing Welfare Codes need to be further developed and up-dated in the light of FAWC recommendations new husbandry systems, new farmed species and new scientific information on animal welfare.

### **Recommendation 1**

The provisions of the Welfare Codes should be enforced as the minimum acceptable animal welfare standards in all livestock production systems. Equivalent provisions should apply equally to all the food we eat, including imported livestock products, and should take the entire process (from birth to slaughter) into consideration. An effective labelling system should be developed to identify food produced in compliance with these Welfare Codes (and the absence of such labelling on some imported goods may be taken to indicate non-compliance with these codes or their equivalent), and to additionally recognise food produced to enhanced welfare standards, in an honest, transparent and reliable way. (paras 4-9)

### **Monitoring and enforcement of acceptable welfare standards**

10. Current levels of welfare surveillance are inadequate to ensure problems and trends will be reliably noticed and appropriate enforcement action taken. This is due both to a serious lack of resources, insufficient emphasis placed on the enforcement role, and inadequate co-operation between the relevant agencies (SVS, MHS, VLA, local authorities, etc.). Likewise enforcement of current welfare regulations is both inconsistent and inadequate. Problems of inconsistent enforcement apply to entire industries (e.g. the acceptance of transporting lame broilers to slaughter when this is not permitted for other species such as sheep) as well as to specific situations (e.g. particular farms where significant welfare problems may be present and yet effective prosecution is not pursued). It can be argued that basing the surveillance and enforcement responsibilities within the same department that is responsible for agricultural production creates an unacceptable conflict of interest.

11. A registration system is an essential minimum to ensure that the proposed surveillance system can locate holdings throughout the industry as a basis for monitoring welfare standards in practice. Over and above this, a licensing system for holdings has the theoretical advantage of offering an enforcement option, i.e. removal of the licence, that might be used to maintain the standards that are defined as acceptable in farming. This would help the good farmers to be recognised and improve as well as to sift out and exclude the not so good. However, the administration and enforcement costs of implementing this, the difficulty of including all livestock keepers regardless of size of operation, and its focus on only livestock farmers within the UK, and the resultant impact on competitiveness, make the introduction of such a scheme a challenging prospect at present. In its 2001 Interim Report on Farm Assurance, FAWC

recognised the potential of such schemes for independent evaluation of farms, including standards of welfare. Farm Assurance Schemes, if compulsory, might offer a viable alternative means of ensuring compliance with welfare standards. However a credible inspection/surveillance system is an absolute necessity, whatever the administration arrangements under which livestock farmers operate.

### ***Recommendation 2***

**There should be a national system of welfare surveillance throughout the food chain and better enforcement of the existing legislation. A system of registration of livestock holdings is an essential administrative requirement to underpin such enforcement action and should be introduced. A single welfare inspectorate acting throughout the food chain should undertake this surveillance and enforcement role. A system whereby a formal licence has to be held in order to undertake livestock production has attractive elements from the standpoint of animal welfare. Equally, compulsory membership of a farm assurance scheme providing independent monitoring at each stage of production could be a viable alternative. We recognise that important practical issues would need to be overcome in each case. (paras 10-11)**

### **Improving professionalism in the farming industry.**

12. There is an unfortunate public perception of modern farming as a low status industry that does not care adequately for the animals from which it profits. There is a need to alter this perception by fostering wider public understanding of livestock farming processes, by increasing professionalism throughout production systems and communicating this professionalism to consumers. However, it is important that livestock farmers also appreciate that the right to farm is not an automatic right but one which must be conditional on accepting a responsibility towards the way animals are kept.

13. The human element, in the form of farm management and the labour force, are crucial factors in a livestock enterprise – both in terms of the efficiency of the process and the welfare of the animals involved. The quality and quantity of husbandry inputs are vital to the welfare of the livestock kept. Stockmen and women should be required to demonstrate competence with the species of livestock they keep and the systems within which those animals are managed. Likewise, the rewards of such a skilled labour force should be performance related, both in terms of monetary and social recognition.

14. Training is vital to develop this competence. Continuing professional development, and personal training plans (in the spirit of the Investors in People scheme) should be actively encouraged. There should be recognition of appropriate standards of competence achieved through professional qualifications. Quality Assurance (QA) Schemes should monitor each individual's competence as well as the processes in place to validate his or her capabilities. The development of on-farm indicators of welfare will help to facilitate the objective assessment of welfare outcomes at farm level in terms of stock quality. Such indicators should become part of routine QA on all livestock farms.

15. The communication of information about legislation and best practice to farmers is an important element in ensuring minimum welfare standards are maintained or surpassed. The presumption that IT solutions are the way forward may not be correct for farming communities. DEFRA's move towards a whole-farm approach for advisory visits is a step in the right direction by providing one-to-one advice on husbandry matters. Demonstration farms should be developed to trial and demonstrate the effectiveness of new methods; local co-operation between farmers to benchmark welfare standards should also be encouraged as well as assisted access to veterinary advice related to welfare matters (through similar schemes to those which provide assisted business advice to farmers).

### ***Recommendation 3***

**There should be investment into raising the farm animal welfare skills base of those responsible for livestock management in all production systems through better training, appropriate recognition of demonstrable stockmanship skills, and enhanced communication and delivery of advisory services. (paras 12-15)**

### **Support payments and Free Trade**

16. Support payments that are made to livestock farmers should be targeted at production methods in such a way as to encourage good welfare and should not be provided simply as across-the-board headage payments. We recognise that changes in the subsidy payments system to link them with welfare compliance will require amendments to the CAP, but are convinced that these changes are essential.

17. Pressure should also continue to be applied to ensure welfare considerations are included in the negotiations of WTO. This need not be considered in any way anti-competitive since such recognition would provide opportunities rather than threats to all farmers seeking to comply with openly defined welfare standards. Likewise, the proposed labelling of food

produced in compliance with Welfare Codes need not require changes to WTO. It can initially be introduced as voluntary labelling enabling consumers to make informed choices based upon a transparent understanding of the welfare provenance of the food they choose to purchase. In this way, retailers would be enabled to source their produce, whether home produced or imported, on welfare grounds which reflect society's wishes and to declare that provenance as brand information. This would enable individuals to make informed purchasing choices based upon welfare provenance.

#### **Recommendation 4**

Government should press for reform of CAP to enable any support payments to livestock producers to be linked to their implementation of the Welfare Codes. Furthermore, pressure should continue to be applied on WTO to include welfare standards in those negotiations. (paras 16-17)

#### **Conclusion**

18. The UK has a potentially excellent pool of farm management and stockmanship skills that needs to be exploited in order to improve the image of the farming industry and allow it to address steadily rising public expectations for the way farm animals are kept. We have a framework of farm animal welfare legislation supported by Welfare Codes. However these need to be better monitored, through effective welfare surveillance, and enforced throughout the production chain. We have excellent technical and research capabilities but need to communicate the results of these more effectively to the industry at large. We need to take a firm stance in relation to the public's expectations of welfare in negotiations with our European partners and in WTO.

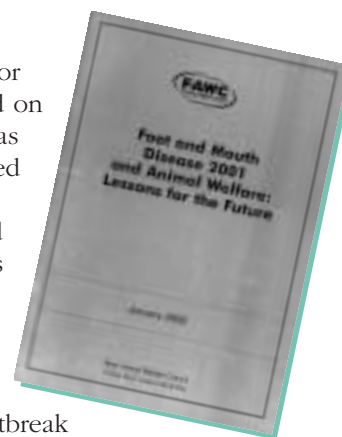
#### **Responses to other consultations**

FAWC's responses to consultations quite apart from responses related to FMD and the Policy Commission in 2001/02, showed a sharp increase compared to the previous year. Most of these responses are available on FAWC's website: [www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk).

The Council provided advice to the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Council on the welfare implications of developments in biotechnology and on the need for control of emerging biotechnology. FAWC's Chairwoman gave evidence on these subjects and on the use of farm animals in scientific procedures to the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals used in Scientific Procedures.

## **FAWC Response to the Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak.**

FAWC's Report "Foot and Mouth Disease 2001 and Animal Welfare: Lessons for the Future" was published on 14 January 2002. As well as being extensively circulated at the outset the Report was widely requested and submitted to the enquiries into the FMD epidemic instigated by Government.



From very early in the outbreak the full support of the Council was offered to Ministers and officials to give advice on the animal welfare implications of the disease and its control. A special working group was established to respond to issues rapidly and, for only the second time in the Council's history, an Extraordinary Council Meeting was held to address the welfare implications. Several Council members were also personally involved in the control of the disease.

During 2001, Ministers were kept regularly informed of the Council's thinking and, in that time, we also provided advice on a number of specific issues including vaccination, the ban on swill feeding, the 20 day standstill period and the impact for the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme. The Report published in early 2002 offered many more observations and recommendations for the future including preparedness for disease outbreaks, field killing options, equipment and personnel, biosecurity (import controls), restocking, headage payments and farmers access to information. Most of this advice, and the Report, are available on the FAWC Website: [www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk).

Reaction to the Report from the farming and veterinary press and from individual vets, farmers etc. has been very welcoming and extremely positive.

## Working Groups

The Council carries out detailed reviews in small working groups comprising a cross section of members. There is significant responsibility on these members to provide thoroughly researched and carefully considered advice for discussion and endorsement by Council. The work of all these groups was significantly delayed by consideration of the animal welfare implications of the FMD outbreak which dominated 2001 and culminated in the publication of the report "Foot and Mouth Disease 2001 and Animal Welfare: Lessons for the Future".

Working group activity is now largely back to normal and reports are expected on Welfare at Slaughter, Welfare at Markets and on Control of Emerging Biotechnology, late in 2002 and early in 2003, with a second report on the Animal Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes later in 2003.



Horses at Leominster Market

## Farm Assurance Schemes

As foreshadowed in the Interim Report on the animal welfare implications of farm assurance schemes, the Group is currently preparing a second report which, amongst other things, will look at the welfare implications of organic farming and the inspection protocol of farm assurance schemes.

## Slaughter

The Slaughter Working Group's review of current red meat slaughter practice was unavoidably delayed by the effects of the FMD outbreak, the Group being unable to recommence the slaughterhouse visits necessary to inform itself until the late spring of 2002. However, the Group has continued to obtain oral evidence from interested parties. Some progress has been made on drafting areas of the Group's report and this work continues with a view to publication by Council late in 2002.

During 2001, much of the Group's time was spent considering the animal welfare implications of mass killing in the field during the FMD epidemic and passing its views on to Council.

## Strategy and Communication

The Group has conducted a review of stockmanship and produced a paper that provides practical guidance on how stockmanship can be enhanced to further improve animal welfare. The Group is also working on developing FAWC's communication strategy. The Group was responsible for making the arrangements for a successful Open Meeting in June 2001 that was attended by a broad spectrum of individuals representing over thirty organisations. The Council's work and its plans for the future were presented through the reports of the Chairmen of the Working Groups. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for FAWC members to respond to a wide range of questions and to receive valuable feedback. Our fourth Open Meeting will be held on 27 June 2002 at Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, Westminster.

## Markets and Transport

The Working Group has resumed its programme of visits to livestock markets that were postponed due to FMD, including horse and pony sales. The Group has also looked at video sales. The report on the welfare of farmed animals at markets, which is due to be published early in 2003, will include a review of the role of livestock markets and marketing post FMD; alternatives to the current livestock market system and the welfare issues associated with multiple marketing.



FAWC's Transport & Markets Working Group visit to Leominster Horse Sale.

## Research and Development

The work of the Research and Development Working Group was also hampered by the FMD outbreak. The Group did not meet regularly during 2001 but did manage to maintain much of its workload by correspondence. Members contributed to a FAWC submission to the Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures which set out a summary of Council's main areas of concern about welfare implications of developments in biotechnology controlled under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and the emergence of such developments in to commercial farming. The relevance of the Banner Report of 1994 and FAWC's own Cloning Report of 1998 were re-iterated. The FAWC Chairwoman has also given oral evidence to the Committee. An extension of this work are proposals currently being developed by the Group for a mechanism to monitor and control technologies that emerge from research or are imported into Great Britain destined for commercial agriculture. This will form the basis of a FAWC report later in 2002.

The Research and Development Working Group intends to carry out a survey by questionnaire during 2002 seeking views from a wide variety of interested organisations and individuals on what they perceive to be the most important welfare problems facing farmed livestock. The results will inform Council's advice on the allocation of resources to tackle welfare problems.

## Poultry Issues

While much of the Poultry Issues Working Group's efforts have been directed towards broiler leg health over the period of this review, this is not exclusively the case. The Group has identified issues raised in the 1997 Report on the Welfare of Laying Hens which it feels should receive further attention, particularly skeletal health of laying hens and the welfare implications during lay and for spent hens. It has also been considering the Governments' response to this Report (available on the DEFRA website, [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)). The lack of detail in this response is disappointing.

### *Broiler leg health*

The British Poultry Council has now published on its website ([www.poultry.uk.com](http://www.poultry.uk.com)) a report of the independent statistical analysis carried out on its major survey of broiler leg health in commercial flocks. FAWC appreciates the substantial effort that the industry committed to its survey and recognises that, despite some problems, a unique and comprehensive dataset was assembled and has now been analysed. We look forward to the publication of the findings in a reputable peer-reviewed journal, the necessary final step in subjecting the results to critical appraisal and gaining objective acceptance amongst the scientific community. We welcome the commencement of a DEFRA research project on broiler leg health aimed at establishing best design and management practice.

The full text of FAWC's response to the analysis of the survey can be found on the Council's Website ([www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk)).

## Secretariat

The FAWC Secretariat is staffed by officials on secondment from DEFRA. The Secretary is Kumu Adhihetty and the other members of the Secretariat team are Richard Aram, Barbara Silberstein and Stephen Lyus.

The Council welcomes approaches from organisations planning events such as conferences or seminars. The Secretariat can provide copies of FAWC materials on request. Many members carry with them a wealth of expertise about farm animal welfare, and if you would like us to be represented at appropriate events, please get in touch. The Council is keen to develop an effective partnership with the media, and we welcome press approaches, routed through the Secretariat.

## Contact us

If you would like to be sent any of our reports, or to find out more about the Council please contact:

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**Website: [www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk)**

## Appendix A

### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (May 2002)

#### *Chairwoman*

**Dr Judy MacArthur Clark**, veterinary surgeon and adviser on biomedical science and ethics. Veterinary Director of BioZone Ltd. Past-President and currently a member of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a former member of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

#### *Members*

**Ian Baker**, senior partner in the farm animal department of a large multidisciplinary veterinary practice in Buckinghamshire and past-President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association.

**Rosemary Berry**, pedigree Texel sheep breeder, former National Vice-Chairman and Central Executive Member of the Women's Farming Union with responsibility for animal welfare.

**Professor Stephen Clark**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Liverpool. Former member of the committee to consider the Ethical Implications of Emerging Technologies in the Breeding of Farm Animals (the Banner Committee). Member of the Home Office's Animal Procedures Committee.

**John Don**, livestock and arable farmer from Aberdeenshire. Vice-Convenor of the Scottish Landowners Federation and a former Council Member of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland.

**Professor Peter English**, Professor of Animal Science and Husbandry at the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Aberdeen. Also involved with research on the education, training and motivation of stockpeople or farm animal carers.

**Graham Godbold**, Trading Standards Manager for Shropshire County Council with over twenty years experience of animal health and welfare enforcement and administration. Former Secretary of the Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services' National Animal Health and Welfare Panel.

**Tony Gray**, Chief Executive and Principal of Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire.

**Dr Jane Guise**, Secretary to the South West Agricultural Show. Farm Animal research scientist with specialist interest in production systems.

**Eddie Harper**, self-employed livestock transport consultant in Somerset, and currently National Chairman of the Livestock Group of the Road Haulage Association.

**David Henderson**, retired Head of the Division of Farms and Clinical Studies at the Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh and past-President of the Sheep Veterinary Society.

**Victoria Hird**, Policy Director of Sustain: the Alliance for Better Food and Farming.

**James Hook**, Managing Director of a firm in Oxfordshire specialising in broiler chick production. A chartered surveyor by training and currently Chairman of the British Poultry Breeders and Hatcheries Association.

**Professor Alistair Lawrence**, research scientist who heads the Animal Behavioural Sciences Department at the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh.

**Stephen Lister**, partner in a poultry veterinary practice in Norfolk and a Trustee of the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation.

**Gareth Lloyd**, Chartered Surveyor and livestock auctioneer, with practical farming experience. Regional Board Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Vice-Chairman of RICS Wales. Member of the Lord Chancellor's Panel of Agricultural Arbitrators. Member of RICS Rural Policy Panel.

**Richard Maunder**, Operations Director of a meat and poultry wholesale company in Devon.

**Professor John McInerney**, OBE, Emeritus Glanely Professor of Agricultural Policy and former Director of the Agricultural Economics Unit, University of Exeter.

**Miriam Parker**, Director of the Specialist Animal Welfare and Systems Consultancy. Former Technical Director of the Humane Slaughter Association. Member of the Meat Hygiene Service Advisory Committee. Agricultural scientist, owner of a small pedigree sheep flock.

**Dr Martin Potter**, Head of Farm Animal Department, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**Barbara Smith**, a member of the Women's Food and Farming Union, and past Chairman of its Dairy Committee, a member of the CBI Regional Council and European Union of Women. Past-Chairman of the Animal Welfare Committee of the National Council of Women and past County Chairman of the Cheshire NFU.

**Michael Vaughan**, retired partner in a mixed animal veterinary practice in Devon. Past-President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association.

The following member retired at the end of 2001:

**Josephine Turnbull**, qualified solicitor, but not in practice. A member of the BVA Ethics Committee, and the Parole Board. Runs a small hill farm in County Durham with her husband.

We would like to thank Josephine for her long and distinguished service to the Council.

## Appendix B

### HOW THE COUNCIL WORKS

#### *Membership and Appointments*

Appointments to the Council are made according to procedures laid down in the Code of Practice produced by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

#### *Register of members' interests*

The Council's work covers a wide range of issues connected with the agricultural industry, animal welfare organisations, research bodies and the veterinary profession. In order to avoid any concern that members' interests might adversely affect the advice given by Council, information about significant and relevant interests of the membership is kept on a register, copies of which are available from the Secretariat. This register is updated annually. In addition to information on commercial interests a record is kept of relevant non-commercial interests, such as membership of organisations whose work may overlap with the Council's area of interest.

#### *Guidance to members*

On appointment, members receive a package of guidance about matters such as working procedures, guiding principles, working with the media, representing Council, networking, fees and expenses. Incorporated in the guidance is a Code of Practice for Members, which is written with full regard to the seven principles of public life identified by the Nolan Committee in its Report on Standards in Public Life and the recommendations made by the Phillips Inquiry Report relevant to advisory bodies.

#### *Costs*

The work of the Farm Animal Welfare Council is financed by DEFRA which also provides the Secretariat. During the financial year 2001/2002 the total expenditure on the Council by government was around £357,000. This sum comprised £123,000 for member's fees, travel and related costs; £196,740 for Secretariat salaries, travel and other costs; £31,220 for DEFRA advisers and consultants; and £6,000 for printing and overheads.

## Appendix C

### PUBLICATIONS

Foot and Mouth Disease 2001 and Animal Welfare: Lessons for the Future, 2002. PB 6455

Interim Report on the Animal Welfare Implications of Farm Assurance Schemes, 2001. PB 5797

Report on the Implications of Cloning for the Welfare of Farmed Livestock, 1998. PB 4132

Report on the Welfare of Broiler Breeders, 1998. PB 3907

Report on the Welfare of Dairy Cattle, 1997. PB 3426

Report on the Welfare of Laying Hens, 1997. PB 3221

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Fish, 1996. PB 2765

Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors, 1996. PB 2608

Report on the Welfare of Turkeys, 1995. PB 2033

Report on the Welfare of Sheep, 1994. PB 1755

Report on the Priorities for Animal Welfare Research and Development, 1993. PB 1310

Report on the Welfare of Broiler Chickens, 1992. PB 0910

Report on the Welfare of Laying Hens in Colony Systems, 1991. PB 0734

Report on the European Commission Proposals on the Transport of Animals, 1991. PB 0687

Advice to Ministers on the Handling and Transport of Poultry, 1990. PB 0125

Report of the Enforcement Working Group, 1990. PB 0124

Assessment of Pig Production Systems, 1988

Advice to Agricultural Ministers on Transportation of Unfit Animals, 1988

Report on the Priorities in Animal Welfare Research and Development, 1988

An Assessment of Egg Production Systems, 1986

Report on the Welfare of Livestock at Markets, 1986

Report on the Welfare of Livestock when Slaughtered by Religious Methods, 1985

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Deer, 1985

Report on the Welfare of Livestock (Red Meat Animals) at the Time of Slaughter, 1984

Report on the Welfare of Poultry at the Time of Slaughter, 1982

Advice to the Agriculture Ministers of Great Britain on the Need to Control Certain Mutilations of Farm Animals, 1981

Report on the Animal Welfare Implications of the Harvesting of Deer Antlers in Velvet, 1980



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